

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 081030Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0070

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CY UK
SUBJ: BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER'S DISCUSSION WITH DENKTASH
ON ATA ACTIONS

REF: NICOSIA 4440

1. REFTEL DESCRIBED DECEMBER 11, 1974 MEETING OF AMBASSADORS OF NATO COUNTRIES IN NICOSIA CONCERNING SEPARATIST ACTIONS BY THE AUTONOMOUS TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION (ATA) DURING WHICH IT WAS AGREED THAT PARTICIPANTS WOULD EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND COORDINATE APPROACHES TO TURKISH CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES. ON JANUARY 6 UK HIGH COMMISSIONER OLVER DISCUSSED WITH ATA PRESIDENT DENKTASH QUESTIONS OF REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN FIRMS AND REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES IN THE TURKISH-CONTROLLED AREA OF CYPRUS. OLVER DID NOT RAISE ISSUE OF DIPLOMATIC IDENTITY CARDS SINCE THERE APPEARS TO BE NO PRESSURE ON THIS AT PRESENT. OLVER'S MEMORANDUM OF DENKTASH MEETING FOLLOWS.

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2. BEGIN TEXT: I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF A NEW YEAR'S CALL THIS

MORNING ON MR. DENKTASH TO RAISE THE WHOLE QUESTION OF ACTIONS BY HIS ADMINISTRATION TENDING TO HARDEN THE SEPARATION OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES ON THE ISLAND. MR. DENKTASH INSISTED, AS HE HAS ON ALL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THAT IT WAS NOT THE INTENTION OF HIS ADMINISTRATION OR THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO TAKE STEPS TOWARDS PARTITIONING THE ISLAND; THAT THEIR GOAL REMAINS AN INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN CYPRUS UNDER A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT; AND THAT THE STEPS NOW BEING TAKEN BY HIS ADMINISTRATION WERE DICTATED INEVITABLY BY THE NEED TO BUILD UP THE NORTHERN AREA, BUT WERE NOT INTENDED TO PREJUDICE THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE ISLAND. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, HE COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS ON THE SPECIFIC POINTS WHICH I RAISED WITH HIM:

(A) REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN FIRMS -

HE CONFIRMED AT THE OUTSET THAT THE 2 JANUARY DEADLINE WAS FLEXIBLE, AND THAT NO IMMEDIATE RESPONSE WAS CALLED FOR BY FIRMS, THOUGH HIS ADMINISTRATION WOULD WANT TO KNOW FAIRLY SOON WHERE FOREIGN FIRMS STOOD. HE STRESSED THAT IT WAS NOT THE INTENTION - CONTRARY TO WHAT HAS BEEN EARLIER CLEARLY STATED BOTH TO FIRMS AND TO MEMBERS OF HIS HIGH COMMISSION - TO CALL ON FOREIGN FIRMS TO RE-REGISTER IN THE NORTH: WHAT WAS REQUIRED WAS THAT THEY SHOULD INFORM HIS ADMINISTRATION, IN SUITABLE TERMS, OF THEIR EXISTENCE IN THE NORTH AND OF THEIR INTENTION TO CONTINUE OPERATING THERE, AND SHOULD GIVE THE ADMINISTRATION FULL PARTICULARS OF THEIR PROPOSED OPERATIONS. IN DISCUSSION, MR. DENKTASH EXPRESSED AWARENESS OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACING FIRMS OVER ACTION WHICH MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS RECOGNITION OF THE ATCA, WITH INEVITABLE REPERCUSSIONS OF THEIR POSITIONS IN THE SOUTH. HE SAID IT WAS NOT HIS ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTION TO DRIVE FIRMS INTO A CORNER OVER THIS, SINCE HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE RESULT THERE WOULD BE TO DRIVE THESE FIRMS OUT OF THE NORTH, FROM WHICH THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS THEMSELVES WOULD BE THE LOSERS. IT WAS LEFT THAT FIRMS SHOULD DISCUSS THE MODALITIES OF THIS WITH MR. ORHON. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF THE UNDERLYING ATTITUDE OF FLEXIBILITY EVINCED BY MR. DENKTASH'S REMARKS; I SAID THAT IT SEEMED TO ME REASONABLE ENOUGH THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION SHOULD SEEK TO BE INFORMED ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN FIRMS IN THEIR AREA, BUT URGED THAT GREAT CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN NOT TO REQUIRE THIS TO BE DONE IN A WAY WHICH WOULD IN FACT PROVE EMBARRASSING FROM THE RECOGNITION POINT OF VIEW AND THUS FACE THE FIRMS WITH PRECISELY CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CHOICE WHICH MR. DENKTASH SAID HE WISHED TO AVOID. MR. DENKTASH ACCEPTED THE NEED FOR THIS.

(B) CAR REGISTRATION

MR. DENKTASH SAID THAT THE REASONS FOR THIS WERE TWOFOLD: THE NEED FOR REVENUE AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE NEED TO HAVE A RECORD OF VEHICLES RUNNING IN THE TURKISH AREA. I POINTED OUT THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLICATIONS LIKELY TO ENSUE AND THE GREAT DIFFICULTIES

WITH WHICH ANY RIGID ENFORCEMENT OF THE NEW REGULATIONS WOULD FACE FOREIGN COMMUNITIES; THEY COULD WELL LEAD TO A COMPLETE CESSATION OF TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH TO THE DETRIMENT PARTICULARLY OF FOREIGN COMMUNITIES LIVING IN THE TURKISH AREA. MR. DENKTASH ACKNOWLEDGED THIS. HE ENVISAGED ULTIMATELY A PATTERN WHERE - RATHER ON THE AMERICAN STATE PATTERN - THERE WOULD BE SEPARATE REGISTRATIONS IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE ISLAND, BUT OF COURSE WITH RECIPROCAL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IN EACH AREA. THIS WAS A SUBJECT WHICH MIGHT WELL COME UP FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN HIMSELF AND MR. CLERIDES. MEANWHILE, ALTHOUGH FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN THE TURKISH AREA WOULD BE REQUIRED, WITHIN THE 10 DAYS' GRACE FROM 1 JANUARY 1975, TO PAY THEIR NEW REGISTRATION, THEY WOULD NOT - FOR A REASONABLE PERIOD, LENGTH UNSPECIFIED - BE REQUIRED TO TAKE OUT FRESH NUMBER PLATES. UNTIL IT COULD BE SEEN WHAT EMERGED FROM THE TALKS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND MR. CLERIDES, THE WHOLE SYSTEM WOULD BE ADMINISTERED WITH A DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY. ON A FINAL POINT OF DETAIL, MR. DENKTASH CONFIRMED THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING THE SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS DRAFTING OF THE ATCA NOTICE ON THIS SUBJECT, IT WAS NOT THE INTENTION THAT THE NEW REGISTRATION REGULATIONS SHOULD APPLY TO FOREIGN RESIDENTS, INCLUDING EMBASSIES, ETC., OF THE GREEK CYPRIOT AREA WISHING TO TRAVEL IN THE TURKISH CYPRIOT AREA. END TEXT.

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